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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1905.

Municipal vs. Private Operation.

If Mr. Gould's electric lighting plant

were charging exorbitant prices for electric

lights, either to the municipality or to

private consumers, the city would have

good ground for starting up a municipal

plant to relieve the situation. But in his

able and exhaustive address last night

before the joint sub-committee, on

Finance and Electricity, Mr. Henry W.

Anderson, attorney, asserted that Rich-

mond was getting a light cheaper than

any city in the United States of like size

and situation, and incandescent lights at

an average cost lower than any other

city. If this statement be accurate, and

Mr. Anderson has made a thorough in-

vestigation, we can see no reason what-

soever why the city should make the

doubtful experiment of erecting a plant

of its own. And this as an independent

proposition, to say nothing of the poor

policy of discouraging a man who has

already invested five millions of cash in

this city and section, and who is pre-

pared to invest several millions more in

further development, provided only he

can get a square deal from our people.

The committee gave Mr. Anderson a

courteous and attentive audience, and his

address made a profound impression upon

the members, as well as upon the large

number of prominent citizens who were

in attendance. We have no time at this

late hour to go into any analysis of

Mr. Anderson's address, but it is publish-

ed in full in to-day's paper, and we hope

that all citizens who feel any interest in

Richmond's progress and development

will read and study it in detail.

Alderman Dabney has also given the

entire subject careful research and study,

and he will be heard from later. He is

entitled, of course, to every consideration,

for he is a good citizen and a good Coun-

cilman, and he is true to Richmond's in-

terests, as it is given to him to see them.

But in the light of last night's develop-

ments, Mr. Dabney will have a hard task

to convince the general public that the

arguments against the erection at this

time of a municipal plant are merely

"sentimental." However, we shall hear

his side of the case with pleasure, and

without prejudice, for he is always sin-

cere and never dull.

Misleading Republican State-

ments.

The Republicans are distributing a cir-

cular on the subject of free books, in

which they say that twenty-six States in

the Union "use free school books." The

Times-Dispatch has already shown that

eleven States compel the local school dis-

tricts to supply school books at the ex-

pense of the districts. It has also pointed

out that fourteen States leave it with

the local boards to decide whether or not

free books shall be supplied at the ex-

pense of the district; and that only one

State, Maryland, furnishes any money

from the State treasury with which to

purchase books for the children. The

statement of the Republicans, therefore,

that twenty-six States "use free school

books" is misleading.

The circular says that "the cost to the

State or county or district is only one-

tenth of the cost to the pupil who pur-

chases for himself."

That is an absurd statement and we

deny the Republicans to prove it.

No such claim is made by any advocate

of free books who knows what he is

talking about, and who, at the same

time confines himself to the truth.

The circular further states that "the

cost of books for one pupil taking the

graded school course in Roanoke is \$25.49.

The State or city can furnish the same

books for \$2.50." This statement is also

untrue. The attention of Chairman

Slemp has been called to the inaccuracy

of the statement that the books in the

Roanoke schools cost \$25.49, and he has

acknowledged that his figures are incor-

rect.

The Roanoke papers have shown that

the cost of books under private purchase

in the schools of that city is not \$25.49,

or anywhere near that amount. The state-

ment that the State or city can furnish

these same books for \$2.50 is too ridicu-

lous to be dignified with serious denial.

The Roanoke Times, in an editorial on

this subject, exposes the misleading state-

ments the Republicans are circulating. It

seems that the Republicans claim that

the total cost of school books in the third

grammar grade of the Roanoke schools

under private ownership is \$517, the ac-

tual cost for this grade is only \$14.40;

and that this does not take into account

that the pupil can dispose of his books

after he has finished this grade.

The Times says in this connection: "The

Republicans figure that all school books

bought at public expense will last four

years, including copybooks and drawing

tablets. Their table of the cost of school

books and drawing tablets in the Roanoke

schools is as follows:

Total cost under private ownership \$517

Total cost under free book plan as

"free books (including copybooks

and drawing tablets) last four

years..... \$63

Total amount saved..... \$1.87

"It is not stated by the gifted figure,"

says the Times, "how a copybook and

drawing tablet, after being used a year,

can be used three years longer. It is

natural to suppose, however, that the

Republicans propose to establish at con-

venient points free book laundries, where

they can wash all the ink out of the

copybooks, and hand them nicely

laundered to the children."

This remarkable circular also says that

the Republican party "advocates free

books as it has advocated free school

houses, free desks, and free teachers,"

and that the Democratic party is to-day

"opposing free books." The Republicans

are very careful not to state, as The

Times-Dispatch has already pointed out,

that the position of the Democratic party

on this subject is the position held by

fourteen States, namely, that it is left

with the local districts to decide whether

or not free books shall be supplied at the

expense of the districts. They are care-

ful not to say that only one State in the

Union, Maryland, practices the plan

which the Republicans propose to foist

on the people of Virginia, to furnish

books to be paid for out of the State

treasury. While claiming that books in

Virginia cost from twenty-two to thirty-

four per cent. more than the same or cor-

responding books in Tennessee, they

carefully omit to state that in Maryland

the same or corresponding books cost

for out of the State treasury cost from

twenty to thirty per cent. more than

they do in Virginia under private pur-

chase.

The Democratic party is not "opposing

free books" any more than it is oppos-

ing free desks or free school houses. Free

school houses and free desks are paid for

by the local school districts. If any dis-

trict wishes to furnish free books at the

expense of the district, the Democratic

party has no objection to it. Let each

district decide the matter for itself. And

be it always remembered that the dis-

tricts are required by law to furnish free

books to indigent pupils.

The Democratic position on this sub-

ject, in keeping with the position of

twenty-five of the twenty-six States in

the Union that have free book laws, is

that this is purely a local matter. Why

should the people of Virginia turn their

backs upon the plan adopted and prac-

ticed by these twenty-five States and

follow the Republican plan which has

proven so expensive in Maryland?

The Proposed State Fair.

We take the following sensible and sig-

nificant article from the Chase City Pro-

gress:

"The writer has been lately advocating

the idea of going back to holding the old

State fairs in Richmond as was done

years ago. We note the press everywhere

now is beginning to advocate the idea

and push it to the front as was pre-

sented by a News Leader correspondent

some weeks ago. Our line of thought

was just this, to have an old-fashioned

State fair at the capital the same year

as the Jamestown celebration, and let

1907 be a year of jubilee in old Virginia

when the State will be filled with visitors

from all over the world. And let it be

distinctly and strictly a Virginia affair.

We would start with a great industrial

street parade in Richmond, Richmond and

Manchester leading in the procession.

Flour representing everything that was

made and manufactured in these cities.

We would exclude representation of any

kind from every other State. No McCor-

mick reapers and binders from Ohio. No

engines and boilers from Pennsylvania.

Let our own people as well as our vis-

itors know and realize what products

Virginia has and what she manufactures

and sell our own goods, our cotton

and woolen goods, our tobacco in

every form, our mineral products of every

description and our races run by our

own race horses. With this plan we be-

lieve the whole State could be stirred up,

every class of our people would be in-

terested and take a pride in it. Let local

fairs be held all over the State in 1907,

with the view of getting things in shape

for the great fair in 1907."

Agricultural fairs and all such enter-

tainments come and go. They have their

seasons of popularity, then when use

novelty has worn off, public interest

flags; then by and by, there is a re-

vival of interest, and they again become

popular. At one time the State fair in

Richmond was the most popular attrac-

tion in Virginia, but the public finally

grew tired of it and the fair was

abandoned. But that was many years

ago; indeed, a new generation has sprung

up since the last State fair in Richmond

was held and such an entertainment

would now be almost as great a novelty

as it was in its first days. Moreover,

we are in position now to have a fair far

more attractive than those of old. The

agricultural interests are far more pros-

perous and there is much more in Vir-

ginia to exhibit. Transportation facili-

ties are far better, there are many more

people in and around Richmond to at-

tend and in addition to all we have al-

ready in hand a splendid State exhibit

left over from the St. Louis Exposition.

The suggestion of our Chase City con-

temporaries that Richmond have in 1907

a strictly Virginia fair, exhibiting only

Virginia products, is sensible and admi-

rable and should by all means be adopted.

There is to be a great exposition in the

Norfolk section and thousands and tens

of thousands of visitors will come. A

great number of them will naturally take

advantage of the occasion, and of the

cheap rates to visit Richmond, and we

should by all means have a fine show

for them here when they come. It is

not too soon to begin to make ready,

and it may be practicable and advisable

to have the first fair a year in advance

of the Jamestown Exposition.

Republican Manners.

The Rockingham Register in referring

to a speech of Mr. Gleaves, Chairman

## Wedding Gifts

Of Known Quality.

FOR over one hundred (100) years

it has been a sufficient guaran-

tee of the quality of an article to

know that it was bought at Galt's.

All correspondence given careful

attention. Goods sent on approval, ex-

press prepaid.

Galt &amp; Bro.

Established Over a Century.

Jewellers, Silversmiths, Stationers.

1107 Pennsylvania Avenue,

Washington, D. C.

of the Republican State Convention says:

"Mr. Gleaves alleged that Mr. Swanson

had been caught with his arms in the

public treasury up to the armpits,

stealing along with Maehen and the

rest, and he further stated that the Re-

publicans send their thieves to the

penitentiary while the Democrats nomi-

nate them for Governor."

In a speech at Harrisonburg candidate